ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A startup protocol is provided for use in a communications system having a communications line with a master transceiver at a first end and a slave transceiver at a second end, each transceiver having a noise reduction system, a timing recovery system and at least one equalizer all converging at startup of the system. The operation

5   of the startup protocol is partitioned into stages. The first stage includes the step of converging the equalizer and the timing recovery system of the slave while converging the noise reduction system of the master. Upon completion of the first stage the protocol enters a second stage which includes the step of converging the equalizer and the timing recovery system of the master, converging the noise reduction system of the

10   slave, freezing the timing recovery system of the slave, and resetting the noise reduction system of the master. Upon completion of the second stage, the protocol enters a third stage which includes the step of reconverging the noise reduction system of the master. The protocol then enters a fourth stage in which the master transceiver and the slave transceiver are ready to communicate with each other.